

## **AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

**Claims 1 to 25** (cancelled)

**Claim 26** (currently amended)

A single stranded oligonucleotide OY consisting of ~~having~~ 9 to 42 nucleotides of the sequence 9 to 42 nucleotides of the sequence  $Y_1.Y_2.Y_3.Y_4.Y_5$  wherein  $Y_1$  is a nucleotide sequence of 1 to 12 nucleotides or is hydrogen suppressed,  $Y_2$  is a trinucleotide which encodes for Gly,  $Y_3$  is a nucleotide coding for Arg or Lys,  $Y_4$  is a nucleotide coding for Arg or Lys and  $Y_5$  is a nucleotide sequence,  $Y_6.Y_7.Y_8.Y_9$  wherein  $Y_6$  is a trinucleotide which codes for Ser, Thr or Tyr,  $Y_7$  is a trinucleotide which codes for any amino acid,  $Y_8$  is a trinucleotide which codes for Glu or Asp and  $Y_9$  is a nucleotide sequence of 1 to 12 nucleotides or  $Y_5$  is ~~suppressed~~ hydrogen, with the exception of CGACACUCCA CCAUA.

**Claim 27** (currently amended)

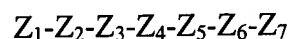
~~A~~ An oligonucleotide of claim 26 ~~2~~ wherein  $Y_1$  and  $Y_9$  are hydrogen.

**Claim 28** (previously presented)

An oligonucleotide of claim 27 wherein  $Y_2$  is a trinucleotide which codes for Gly,  $Y_3$  is a trinucleotide which codes for Lys,  $Y_4$  is a trinucleotide which codes for Arg and  $Y_5$  is a sequence of 3 trinucleotides which code for Ser-Ala-glu.

**Claim 29** (currently amended)

A single-stranded oligonucleotide OZ consisting of ~~having~~ 15 to 39 nucleotides and hybridizes under mild conditions with a consensus signal characteristic of amidated polypeptide hormones with the sequence having the formula



wherein Z<sub>1</sub> is a nucleotide sequence of 1 to 12 nucleotide or is ~~suppressed~~ hydrogen, Z<sub>2</sub> and Z<sub>3</sub> are two trinucleotides which code for Leu, Z<sub>4</sub> and Z<sub>5</sub> are two trinucleotide which code for any two amino acids, Z<sub>6</sub> is a trinucleotide which codes for Leu and Z<sub>7</sub> is a nucleotide sequence of 1 to 12 nucleotides or its ~~suppressed~~ hydrogen.

**Claims 30 to 32** (cancelled)

**Claim 33** (new)

A method for identifying the non-amidified precursor of a peptide having an amidated C-terminal end comprising 1) obtaining a DNA sample, 2) amplifying the fragment of interest by PCR technique with a single stranded oligonucleotide OY consisting of 9 to 42 nucleotides of the sequence Y<sub>1</sub>-Y<sub>2</sub>-Y<sub>3</sub>-Y<sub>4</sub>-Y<sub>5</sub> wherein Y<sub>1</sub> is a nucleotide sequence of 1 to 12 nucleotides or is hydrogen, Y<sub>2</sub> is a trinucleotide which encodes for Gly, Y<sub>3</sub> is a nucleotide coding for Arg or Lys, Y<sub>4</sub> is a nucleotide coding for Arg or Lys and Y<sub>5</sub> is a nucleotide sequence,

$Y_6$ - $Y_7$ - $Y_8$ - $Y_9$  wherein  $Y_6$  is a trinucleotide which codes for Ser, Thr or Tyr,  $Y_7$  is a trinucleotide which codes for any amino acid,  $Y_8$  is a trinucleotide which codes for glu or Asp and  $Y_9$  is a nucleotide sequence of 1 to 12 nucleotides or  $Y_5$  is hydrogen.